SKY MASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Comfrey Mail Pours In

By M. V. CHESTNUT, FRHS

Last Sunday, right after breakfast, I holed up in my study and spent the whole day and evening answering letters from readers. Taking a break only for a cup of coffee at noon and for Sunday dinner with my family, it was well after midnight before the last letter was answered, and the strange part about it was that not one of these letters contained a garden problem—every last one of them was from an asthma sufferer asking where he could get a supply of comfrey leaves, or where to buy the roots or plants of Quaker comfrey to grow himself.

This interest in comfrey was sparked by a newspaper story in the Colonist just before Christmas, relating how an asthmatic New Zealand farmer was benefited by eating the leaves of the plant. My mail was flooded then, and I wrote an article setting out what I knew about Quaker comfrey and how to grow it. Since then, I have learned of several local commercial growers, and it is keeping me busy passing on these sources of supply to my correspondents.

* * *

Now, comfrey is unquestionably a very valuable feed for livestock and has a lot of other virtues as a farm crop, but the thing that worries me is that I cannot find a single shred of evidence in my books that comfrey ever cured a case of asthma or even gave relief from asthmatic symptoms. All we have to go on is that New Zealand newspaper story.

That down-under farmer may have had a natural abatement of his symptoms about the same time as he started eating comfrey leaves. Or he may have given up smoking, and credited his relief to the wrong source. Or the story may have been a publicity stunt to sell more comfrey, or the wishful-thinking enthusiasm of a food faddist.

* * *

On the other hand, it is possible that comfrey actually does bring relief to certain types of asthma. We don't know, for there were no controlled tests.

This ailment is so uncomfortable and distressing, though, that it has sparked world-wide research to discover better drugs for the relief of the symptoms, and I find it hard to believe that comfrey could have been overlooked all this time.

Such research programs are all-embracing, testing every conceivable substance which has even a remote chance of effecting the desired cure, and as comfrey has been known as a medicinal plant for several hundred years, surely it would have been one of the first to go under the microscope. My guess is, that it WAS tested, and found to be less effective than the drugs already in use.

* * *

My best book on the subject of curative plants is "Medical Botany," by Dr. Alexander Nelson of Edinburgh University. Nelson tells of the use of comfrey in healing open sores, and internally for gastric ulcers and gastralgia, but he makes no mention of comfrey in the treatment of asthma.

I don't like to be a wet blanket over this comfrey business, but I am definitely worried over the high hopes which the New Zealand story has aroused. I can see no possible harm in trying the leaves, as they are bland, harmless, and inexpensive, and for all I know, they may bring relief.

I do think, though, that it would be wise to talk things over with your doctor first. He may have quite a lot of information about Symphyti Radix and Symphyti Folium—the drugs extracted from comfrey—or he may have something better in his little black bag.

BBC Chief Says: CBC Wins Praise

TV's Future Up to Public

VANCOUVER (CP) — Sir Ian Jacob, director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation, says that if television and radio are to be counted as useful in the countries in which they operate, the public will have to take a greater interest in them.

Addressing the Canadian Club here Thursday, Sir Ian said the public "must be prepared to call us very much to heel if we are to rise properly to our responsibilities."

He said that if radio and television organizations can be accused of relaying trivia, "we have to look with some doubt to the future of our civilization."

He praised the CBC for its "immense achievement" in placing television transmitters across Canada at a high speed, but warned that TV should not be a medium for the mere display of the salesman's art, for a cheap type of music hall entertainment, or as a soporific to the masses.

He said television should have the widest range of activity in the arts, music, entertainment and information.

Sir Ian, who is on a world tour, also spoke of the dangers of abuse in broadcasting system controlled by political or commercial interests. He added:

"Whether competition between systems is really competition for better programs or larger audiences is a moot point. But television will have a growing influence, and the responsibility to ensure that the medium's opportunities are not missed is immense."

Hollywood Today

By Sheilah Graham

Lucy Flew Coop to Cool

HOLLYWOOD (NANA)—**Lucille Ball** and **Desi Arnaz** were apart for a month. Lucille wisely takes off, usually for New York, when the going gets a bit rough, and, by the time she returns, the Arnazes are cooing again.

* * *

Producer-impresario **Paul Gregory** is going to write a book titled "Charles the Great," about his seven-year partnership with **Charles Laughton** . . . Talking of Mr. Gregory, his Broadway hit with **Claudette Colbert** and **Charles Boyer**, hits the $1,000,000 gross this week. The two stars are also investors in the comedy, "The Marriage-Go-Round."

* * *

What ever happened to **"Bud" Abbott?** Yes, I know he split with partner **Lou Costello.** But Lou has been working. No so Bud.

* * *

Kay Kendall, in London, where husband **Rex Harrison** is working in "My Fair Lady," has seen another show, "Living for Pleasure," 13 times!

The big question in London is: Will **Sir Laurence Olivier** return to **Vivien Leigh** when his six months of "Spartacus" are finished in Hollywood?

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With **Milton Berle** renegotiating his television contract for next season, he and wife **Ruth** have decided to buy a house in California. They are now renting **Cy Howard's** beautiful place in Holmby.

* * *

Comedian **Jack Oakie**, home from the hospital, is reading scripts for three TV series. He's wanted for "The Fat Man," "Uncle Sidney" and an original TV series, "Kenny."

* * *

Queen Elizabeth has given the royal nod to the rebroadcasting of the **Duke of Windsor's** touching seven-minute abdication speech in December, 1936. I hope we can hear it again in this country.

* * *

Marlon Brando goes all-out for realism. When he had to be conked on the head with the butt of a gun in his "One-Eyed Jacks," he scorned to use the usual plastic imitation. The real gun-butt split his scalp open and several stitches were required. When he had to portray a drunk in a scene he downed at least a fifth of gin, whereupon Marlon not only lost his equilibrium but was very ill, off stage. I hope he doesn't have a death scene in the film!

Winning Contract

By SCHENCKEN AND FREY

Vul: None

NORTH
♠ 6 5 2
♡ K 4
◊ 9 7 5
♣ A J 8 4 2

WEST
♠ Q 9 4
♡ Q 7 3 2
◊ 10 6 4 2
♣ 7 6

EAST
♠ 10 7
♡ J 10 8 6
◊ 8 3
♣ K Q 10 5 3

SOUTH (D)
♠ A K J 8 3
♡ A 9 5
◊ A K Q J
♣ 9

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3◊	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♡	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Opening lead: ♡ 2

Most South players opened with two spades, but eleven master pairs out of thirteen got to poor contracts when this deal was played in a recent championship. How would you and your partner have bid it? Of the two pairs who reached the spade slam, one South player barged into Blackwood after North's preference bid of three spades. He was most fortunate to find North with the doubleton heart king, enabling him to ruff his losing heart, and concede one-trump trick.

Several North-South pairs reached six no-trump, and were held to eleven tricks. The one pair reaching their contract via the bidding sequence shown today deserves full credit.

South, having opened a minimum, rightly bid only four spades, leaving it up to partner to make another effort. North chose the master bid of five hearts, and South, no longer concerned about his two losing hearts, contracted for the small slam.

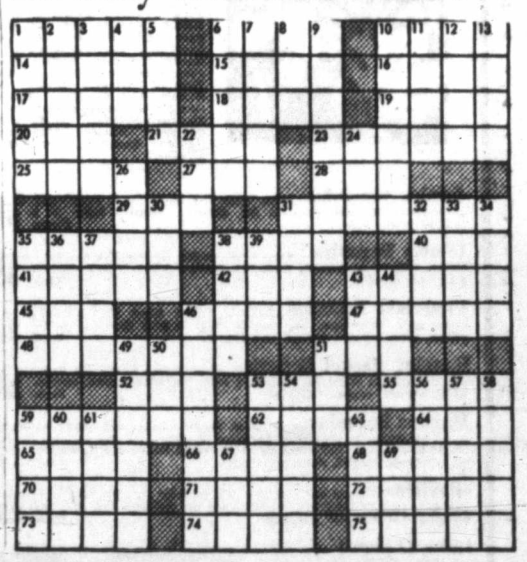
The play was routine; South winning the heart king and drawing on high trump. The heart ace was followed by a heart ruff, and dummy's last spade was led and South's jack finessed, losing to West's queen. This play guarded against the possibility of four trumps in the East hand. South ruffed the next heart lead, drew the last trump, and claimed the rest.

Released by The Associated Newspapers

Beales Come First In Bridge Event

Winners of the weekly tournament of the Allmasters Duplicate Bridge Club: 1, Mr. and Mrs. George Beale; 2, Dr. J. G. Patterson and Dr. Simon Marinker; 3, Mrs. E. Cleworth and Mrs. William McConnell; 4, Mrs. E. Warren and Q. E. Lewis.

The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Billiard shot.
6. Box.
10. Having true lustre when uncut.
14. Make expiation.
15. Sheet of window glass.
16. Man's name.
17. Weasel.
18. Assists.
19. Roman road.
20. Small boy.
21. Wicked.
23. Crazy.
25. Irish Gaelic.
27. Those in power.
28. Expire.
29. Weight.
31. Term.
35. Golf club.
38. Word of sorrow.
40. Regret.
41. Girl's name.
42. Wire measure.
43. Explosion.
45. Dance step.
46. An Egyptian.
47. Female relatives.
48. Boat.
51. Paid notices.
52. Lair.
53. River of Germany.
55. Pay heed to.
58. Father or mother.
62. Dutch East Indies measure.
64. Chemical suffix.
65. The nipa palm.
66. Opera by Verdi.
68. Frozen.
70. Lease.
71. Monitor lizard.
72. The ture heaths.
73. Emmets.
74. Remainder.
75. Has ascended.

DOWN
1. Social division.
2. Oil of roses.
3. Crosses.
4. Tierra del Fuego Indian.
5. Distribute.
6. Country of Europe.
7. Metal containers.
8. A connective.
9. Dwells.
10. Dins.
11. Unsorted wheaten flour of India.
12. Bolivian Indian.
13. Golf warning cry.
22. French fur wine.
24. German schoolmaster.
26. English boys' school.
30. Pronoun.
31. To season.
32. Persia.
33. Expel.
34. Seines.
35. Weakens.
36. Map of town site.
37. River of France.
39. God of love.
39. Part of mouth.
43. Evil.
44. Luxuriant.
46. Half man half horse.
49. Skilled persons.
50. Chess pieces.
51. Snake.
53. Icelandic tales.
54. Intended.
56. Kind of mollusk.
57. Girl's name.
58. Kind of fortification.
59. Seaport of Brazil.
60. Solar disk.
61. Rave.
63. That which matures.
67. Anger.
69. Silkworm.

Answer to Previous Puzzle:

(Released by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)